

**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**  
**Office of the Inspector General**

**Inspector General**



September 1, 2022

Lindsey Parker  
Chief Technology Officer  
Office of the Chief Technology Officer  
200 I Street, S.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20003

Dear Chief Technology Officer Parker:

The Office of the Inspector General's (OIG) Inspections and Evaluations (I&E) Unit will soon start an evaluation of the District of Columbia Office of the Chief Technology Officer (OCTO) and District agencies' use of cybersecurity waivers.

OCTO plays a critical role in overseeing the District government's cybersecurity posture, and the importance of this role has grown in recent years after numerous and persistent cyber threats directed at the public sector. The OIG's risk assessment process identified this engagement due to the potential adverse impact on government programs and citizens if OCTO and other District agencies do not properly manage the District's technology infrastructure and adhere to the policies and standards promulgated by OCTO.

The primary objectives of this evaluation, which is part of my Office's *Fiscal Year 2023 Audit and Inspection Plan*,<sup>1</sup> are to:

- 1) identify all cybersecurity waivers OCTO has approved since October 1, 2019;
- 2) assess OCTO's process for evaluating, documenting, and awarding cybersecurity waivers to District agencies;
- 3) determine whether District agencies properly implemented the requirements of the cybersecurity waivers; and
- 4) determine whether OCTO followed up with the agencies to assess their compliance with the waivers they received.

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<sup>1</sup> Available at <http://oig.dc.gov>.

We will conduct this engagement in accordance with standards established by the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency, paying particular attention to the overall quality of internal control.<sup>2</sup>

Please provide Edward Farley, Assistant Inspector General for I&E, with the name and email address of the person who will serve as the primary point of contact at OCTO during the evaluation. He will schedule an entrance conference with the point of contact you identify. He can be reached at (202) 727-9249 or [edward.farley@dc.gov](mailto:edward.farley@dc.gov).

Also, please send the following information to Mr. Farley no later than September 23, 2022, so that the I&E team can prepare its fieldwork methodology and plan:

- a list of all cybersecurity waivers granted since October 1, 2019;
- an electronic copy (i.e., PDF) of all cybersecurity waivers granted since October 1, 2019, and any supporting documentation provided by the requesting District agencies;
- a point of contact at each District agency for which a cybersecurity waiver was granted since October 1, 2019, to include each person's name, title, and contact information;
- any OCTO policies and procedures pertaining to cybersecurity waivers, particularly any policies and procedures related to evaluating, awarding, documenting, and ensuring compliance with cybersecurity waivers;
- a current organizational chart for OCTO;
- a list of all current OCTO employees responsible for managing and implementing cybersecurity waivers, to include each person's name, title, email address, and a brief description of their duties; and
- any other documentation or information you believe would assist the OIG team with its evaluation.

The OIG will also contact any other relevant District agencies directly to request necessary information and schedule interviews.

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<sup>2</sup> "Internal control" is defined by the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) as comprising "the plans, methods, policies, and procedures used to fulfill the mission, strategic plan, goals, and objectives of the entity" and is "not one event, but a series of actions that occur throughout an entity's operations." Furthermore, internal control is a process that provides "reasonable assurance that the objectives of an entity will be achieved," "serves as the first line of defense in safeguarding assets," and is an "integral part of the operational processes management uses to guide its operations: U.S. GOV'T ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE, STANDARDS FOR INTERNAL CONTROL IN THE FEDERAL GOV'T 5-6, GAO-14-704G (Sept. 2014), <https://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-14-704G> (last visited Sept. 1, 2022).

Thank you in advance for your cooperation. I look forward to working with OCTO in our joint efforts to improve the quality of services provided to the District and strengthen its cyber resiliency.

Sincerely,

DW Lucas

Daniel W. Lucas  
Inspector General

DWL/ef

cc: The Honorable Muriel Bowser, Mayor, District of Columbia, Attention: Betsy Cavendish  
Mr. Kevin Donahue, City Administrator, District of Columbia  
The Honorable Phil Mendelson, Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia  
The Honorable Robert C. White, Jr., Chairperson, Committee on Government Operations and Facilities, Council of the District of Columbia  
The Honorable Christina Henderson, Councilmember, Committee on Government Operations and Facilities, Council of the District of Columbia  
The Honorable Brianne K. Nadeau, Councilmember, Committee on Government Operations and Facilities, Council of the District of Columbia  
The Honorable Brooke Pinto, Councilmember, Committee on Government Operations and Facilities, Council of the District of Columbia  
The Honorable Trayon White, Sr., Councilmember, Committee on Government Operations and Facilities, Council of the District of Columbia  
The Honorable Kathy Patterson, District of Columbia Auditor, Office of the D.C. Auditor, Attention: Cathy Patten

**Signature:** 

**Email:** daniel.lucas@dc.gov

# OCTO Cyberwaivers engagement letter 8.31.22(QM 8.31.22)(OGC)

Final Audit Report

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